

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ADJOURNS AS

INDEPENDENCE TALK GROWS

REF: (A) BELFAST 237 (B) BELFAST A-1

1. NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMPLETED DEBATE ON AGREED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOTION (REF A) JULY 3 AND ADJOURNED UNTIL AUGUST 19. DEBATES MARKED BY AVOIDANCE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND GENERAL GOOD HUMOR AND TOLERANCE. PARTIES EXPECTED CONTINUE PRIVATE MEETINGS DURING RECESS TO DISCUSS REAL AND TOUGH ISSUES THAT WILL ARISE IN AUTUMN. THERE STILL SEEMS NO WAY TO RECONCILE UNYIELDING MANIFESTOS OF PROTESTANT UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP). LATTER DEMANDS PARTICIPATION AT TOP LEVEL IN ANY DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT AND FORMER HAS RULED OUT CABINET-LEVEL POWER SHARING WITH "THOSE WHOSE FIRST LOYALTY" IS TO OTHER THAN UNITED KINGDOM.

2. THERE SIGNS THAT BOTH SIDES THINKING UNTHINKABLE AND THAT IS IN DIRECTION NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER

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OUTSIDE U.K. AND SEPARATE FROM REPUBLIC IRELAND. INITIAL

DEBATES CONSISTENTLY ATTACKED WESTMINSTER DIRECT RULE,
GENERAL LACK UNDERSTANDING "ACROSS THE WATER" OF
SITUATION ULSTER AND STRESSED NECESSITY FIND ULSTER IDENTITY.
LATEST SIGN OF EVOLUTION IS RUMOR MAKING ROUNDS OF PUBS AND
TEAROOMS THAT IAN PAISLEY "WILL NOT EVEN SPEAK ON TWELFTH
DAY FOR FEAR OF OFFENDING GERRY FITT."

3. IRISH TIMES NORTHERN EDITOR CONOR O' CLERY DEVOTED
WEEKLY NORTHERN NOTEBOOK COLUMN JULY 5 TO TOPIC OF NEGOTIATED
INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER AND EXTENT IT BEING DISCUSSED BY
POLITICAL LEADERS. O' CLERY IS INTELLIGENT, HARD-WORKING AND
ENJOYS ACCESS TO ALL ULSTER POLITICIANS. HE BELIEVES PADDY
DEVLIN, IVAN COOPER AND PADDY DUFFY OF SDLP NOW SERIOUSLY
CONSIDERING IDEA THAT PREVIOUSLY ANATHEMA AND STILL RESISTED
BY SDLP LEADERS FITT AND JOHN HUME. O' CLERY LISTS LOYALIST
CONVENTION MEMBERS JOHN TAYLOR, ERNEST BAIRD, DAVID TRIMBLE,
GLENN BARR AND WILLIAM THOMPSON AS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
INDEPENDENCE ON THAT SIDE. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT IN PARTS
BELFAST, APPARENTLY FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, ULSTER
FLAG PREDOMINATES OVER UNION JACK AS TWELFTH JULY APPROACHES.

4. O PART O' CLERY REPORT VERIFIED BY INCIDENT AT
CONGEN INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION WHEN INITIAL MEETING
PADDY DEVLIN AND ENOCH POWELL ENDED WITH ANGRY DEVLIN
CALLING POWELL "CARPETBAGGER" AND TELLING HIM TO LEAVE
ULSTER. DEVLIN EXPLAINED LATER THAT POWELL "A DANGEROUS
MAN" IN ULSTER "WHILE EVERYBODY ELSE THINKING OF A UNITED
ULSTER, THIS INDIVIDUAL IS TALKING ABOUT A UNITED KINGDOM."
POWELL IN SUBSEQUENT JULY 5 SPEECH IN SOUTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY
STATED FIRST LOYALTY MUST BE TO WESTMINSTER GOVERNMENT WHILE
PRACTICALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY JOHN TAYLOR IN SPEECH TO AN ORANGE
ORDER IN SCOTLAND WAS EMPHASIZING FIRST LOYALTY WAS NOT TO
PARLIAMENT BUT TO QUEEN "AS LONG AS SHE WAS PROTESTANT".
IAN PAISLEY AND HARRY WEST LATER REFUTED POWELL CONCEPT OF
LOYALTY.

5. SPECULATION ABOUT INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER CENTERS ABOUT
PRECONDITION THAT CONVENTION WILL EVENTUALLY FAIL IN THAT
LOYALISTS WILL FORCE THROUGH REPORT DENYING MINORITY
SHARE IN GOVERNMENT AT TOP AND PARLIAMENT WILL THEN REJECT
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REPORT. THEN PROVISIONALS WILL RESUME HOSTILITIES AND
NORTHERN IRELAND WILL GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE OR LATE 1974.
PROJECTION CONTINUES THAT TROUBLED BRITAIN WILL THEN GIVE
TIME AND CONDITION ULTIMATUM FOR FINAL PULLOUT AT WHICH
TIME ULSTER COMMUNITIES WILL COME TOGETHER TO SURVIVE. IT
DOES NOT NEED TO BE THAT WAY. IF MINORITY COMMUNITY COULD
BE SURE OF FULL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
IN AN INDEPENDENT ULSTER THEN DESPITE TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONVENTION COULD SERIOUSLY DISCUSS NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE.
IT IS TEMPTING CONCEPT IN THAT IT COULD MOST NEARLY SATISFY
EVERYBODY PERHAPS EVEN INCLUDING PROVISIONAL IRA. THAT
ORGANIZATION CAUSED WARNING TO BE ISSUED THIS PAST WEEKEND
THAT UNLESS BRITISH SOON GAVE INDICATION OF INTENT
WITHDRAW, PROVISIONALS WOULD RESUME HOSTILITIES.

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